The sweet degrees [6] that this brief world affords To such as may the passive drugs of it[7] Freely command [8], thou would'st have plung'd thyself In general riot; melted down thy youth In different beds of lust [9]; and never leara'd The icy precepts of respect \ but follow'd

So, in Heywood's Golden Age, 1611 : *s No more their cradles shall be made their tombs, *' Nor their soft *swaths* become their winding-sheets." Again, in Chapman's translation of Homer's Hymn to Apollo:

«---------swaddled with sincere
" And spotless stuctf^-bands—."
STEEVENS,

6 THE sweet degrees—] Thus the folio. The modern editors have, without authority, read—Through, Sac. but this neglect of the preposition was common to many other writers of the age of Shakspeare. STEEVENS.

7 To such as may the PASSIVE DRUGS of it—] Though all the modern editors agree in this reading, it appears to me corrupt. The epithet *passive* is seldom applied, except in a metaphorical sense, to inanimate objects; and *I* cannot well conceive what Timon can mean by the *passive drugs of the tuorld,* unless he means *every thing that the world affords.*

But in the first folio the words are not "passive *drugs,?* but *' passive *drugges"* This leads us to the true reading—drudges, which improves the sense, and is nearer to the old reading in the trace of the letters.

Dr. Johnson says in his Dictionary, that a *drug* means a *drudge,* and cites this passage as an instance of it. But he is surely mistaken ; and 1 think it is better to consider the passage as erroneous, than to acknowledge, on such slight authority, that a *drug* signifies a *drudge.* M. MASON.

8 — command,] Old copy—command'st. Corrected by Mr. Howe. M ALONE.

9 —— MELTED down thy youth
In different beds of lust;] Thus, in the Achilleid of Statius, ii. 394 :

—— tenero *necjluxa* cubili
Membra.... STEEVENS.

i —precepts of respect,] Of obedience to laws. JOHNS OK. Timon cannot mean by the word *respect,* obedience to the laws, as Johnson supposes; for a poor man is more likely to be impressed with a reverence for the laws, than one in a station of nobility and affluence. *Respect* may possibly mean, as .Steevens